

GREENSTONE GAZETTE

Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)
497 W. Christine Road
Nottingham, PA 19362-9760

October 2018

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Bringing the love of Jesus to our community by fostering an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment.

Expanding our missions, infrastructure and worship experiences to meet the community's needs.

Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

Seeking partnerships with local organizations in pursuit of God's vision for the greater Nottingham area.



Label

Wednesday, October 10 at 7pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church
West Chester, PA



Westminster Presbyterian Church is hosting a viewing of the documentary Angst on October 10. This film helps raise awareness about the rise of anxiety in our culture, especially in young people.

This is a free showing and is open to any adults and youth who are interested. Following the film there will be a brief conversation lead by folks who work in the fields of mental health, education and church ministry. westminsterpc.org

Are you an early Christmas shopper? Check out the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue for unique gifts which benefit people around the world! Catalogues are in the welcoming area near the back door.



PDA Disaster Response Training

Monday, October 15, 2018 -
from 9am-3:30pm
Valley Forge Presbyterian
Church
www.valleyforgepres.org



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Natural disasters and public violence are both a part of our current landscape. How can we respond to support and heal communities while also caring for ourselves? Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) disaster response training, sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity and its presbyteries, will be offered by five presbyteries across the region to better serve you!

Registration is \$10 per person. Register by Monday, October 8. Go to this location to register; <http://www.syntrinity.org/pda/>

We have several people from Nottingham planning to attend. Let Pastor Merritt know if you would like to ride with one of us.



October 2018

October Birthdays

2—Amanda Jackson
 Joshua Jackson
 5 -Barbara Jackson
 6- Kyle Moran
 15—Steve Gray
 21-Pam Donnelly
 - Joyce Jackson
 26-Judy Kimble
 Charles Montgomery
 Deb Roney
 29-April Hansen
 30- Merritt Schatz

Oct Anniversaries

4—Ken and Sharon Hershey
 5—Albert & Louise Moran
 14- Tony & Kim Caballero
 24-Gary and Judy Ham

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Every Monday: Youth 6 p.m.
 Every Tues: Adult Bible 10 am
 AA 7pm
 Every Wed: Adult Bible 7 pm
 Every Thursday: NA 7pm
 Wednesday October 3
 Worship Team 1 pm
 Property/Stewardship 4 pm
 Tuesday, October 9
 Deacons 6:30pm
 Wednesday, October 10
 Nominating 1:30 pm
 Sunday, October 14
 Congregational gathering 11 am
 Thursday, October 25
 Session 7pm
 Sunday, October 28
 Congregational Meeting 11 am

Nottinghampc.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 20 I opened my Facebook log to find that there had been yet another workplace shooting. This time the shooting was less than four miles from my home. Within minutes my son in Troy, New York had texted to find out if we were okay. Shortly after this Noel's sister in Colorado sent a message asking the same thing. Not too long after that Eva, who was visiting a friend in South Carolina, texted with the same message. Within six hours the pastor leading the ministry group of Harford County reached out with the offer of assistance from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. How quickly the word spread!

I grieve each and every one of these increasingly frequent events. Oddly enough, this one didn't seem so different from the ones which occurred at a greater distance. I am not sure if I have just resigned myself to the fact that there is no reason why such things cannot happen in my community. I continue to ponder the uncomfortable thought that I might not really consider that industrial area part of "my community." Is my community more through electronic connections spread across the country? Not really, as many local people also expressed concern and care. The extraordinary response of the first responders is also a factor (and a very positive one!) of the compassion and concern which can be found in many places.

In the days which followed, three facts which emerged seem highly relevant. First, the woman who shot six people and then killed herself had been exhibiting disturbing mental health increasingly in the days leading up to the shooting. Yet she was able to buy and register a gun legally, and apparently even her family members, who recalled being very concerned, did not think to take that gun away (if they knew about it). Second, the people who were shot were almost all immigrants. One woman who died had been here only four months. She came to join her husband who had been here six years. They came to give a better life to their children. The third item was reportedly on the shooter's Facebook page: her favorite Bible verse was "an eye for an eye."

"An eye for an eye." How often has that verse been taken out of context and misused. This verse is not, as some suppose, free license for revenge. The law, taken from the Code of Hammurabi and included in our Scriptures, was intended to curtail escalating acts of revenge. It's purpose was to limit what our responses to harm done to us are to be. The law, taken in context, would never have permitted taking anyone's life – let alone three – for an insult, imaginary or real.

We might argue that her mental state/illness led to this misinterpretation of the Scripture. However, most mentally ill persons, or persons struggling with mental problems, do not commit violent acts. Second, we need to consider how often we take this passage as license to strike back whenever *we* are offended or hurt. Where is *our* restraint when responding to differences of opinion, to slights or insults, to intentional harm? We may not kill, but we may lash out in venomous anger. We need to remember Christ's call to "love our enemies." Christ clearly does not call for us to allow abuse to ourselves or others to go unchallenged. Christ does, however, show us a different way to address matters of abuse and injustice.

So, what am I going to do? I really don't know. I know I will cherish the expressions of love and concern. I will give thanks for the first responders, and for all those who reached out in the days and weeks and months to follow with counseling and hope to those most affected. I will be grateful if I am given the opportunity to offer hope – either to these victims or to those who have suffered from hurricane or flooding damage. These are good things. Yet more is called for. We need to change our culture.

How we do this is a complex question. Yet a good place to start is with turning to God, seeking God's direction, for with God, all things are possible. In this we can find hope for the future.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Merritt





October Volunteers

Readers:

10/7 Cindy Sudnikovich
 10/14 Becky Conner
 10/21 Jack and Carol Dunlap
 10/28 Brooke Glover

Head Usher:

John Lloyd

Deacon of the month:

Jerry Jackson

Communion Prep Team:

Steve and Dar Gray
 Donna and Gerry Davis

Communion Servers

October 7
 Jim Lewis
 Connie Lewis
 Nina Hansen

November Volunteers

Readers:

4 Tenille Dewees
 11 Gerry Davis
 18 Nina Hansen
 25 Jim Lewis

Head Usher:

Eric Hansen

Deacon of the month:

Dar Gray

Communion Prep Team:

11/4 Joyce and Jerry

Communion Servers

November 4
 Donna Davis
 Gerry Davis
 Jack Dunlap
 Carol Dunlap



The Nominating Committee is asking for suggestions from the congregation to fill future vacancies on our boards and committees.

We need 2 Elders, 2 Deacons; 3 at-large members of the Nominating Committee and 2 at-large members of the Memorial Committee.

If you would like to suggest someone, or you are interested, please let one of the committee members know **before October 7**. Members of the committee are: Jolan Squires, Dave Pohlig and Becky Reiber. You can drop a note in the offering plate or speak to one of the members.

The committee will meet on October 10 in order to plan for a slate to present at the Congregational Meeting on Nov. 11.

Did you know?

Nina Hansen sewed the new white skirts for the choir loft, and Carol Dunlap hemmed them for us! Thanks, ladies, for brightening up our worship space for Communion Sundays!

Steve and Dar Gray provided and placed new first aid kits around the church so that we will have needed supplies in case of accidents. Thank you, Gray family, for thinking ahead!

We are grateful for all the many hands who make the ministry of this congregation possible!



Congregational Gathering and Congregational Meeting



In November 2017, Rev. Merritt Schatz began her ministry at Nottingham Presbyterian Church as a Temporary Pastor on a ¾ time basis. Over the course of this year, it has become clear to Pastor Merritt and to the Session that this is a “good fit” between us. As a result, the Session petitioned the Connecting our Ministry Commission of Donegal Presbytery for permission to change the status of this ministry from Temporary to Installed. The Commission has concurred with the Session’s request. Now the Session is bringing this recommendation to the congregation.

A **Congregational Informational Gathering** will be held after worship on **October 14**. At that time, Session will present the recommendation, including what this means in relation to the Terms of Call, and will respond to questions and/or concerns which any member of the congregation may wish to raise. No votes will be taken at this informational gathering. This is a time for conversation, information, and expressions of approval or concerns.

A **Called Congregational Meeting** will be held on **October 28** following worship, for a vote by the congregation on this matter. The meeting will be moderated either by Executive Presbyter, Erin Cox-Holmes, or Stated Clerk of Donegal Presbytery, Michael Wilson. If the congregation approves this recommendation, the matter will be considered by Donegal Presbytery at its November 2018 meeting. A ¾ approval by Presbytery is required to make this change.

This is an exciting and important point in the life of our congregation, and we encourage everyone to take part in these two events. Your opinion and vote matter!



We are in the process of updating the Church Directory. If you want to be in the Directory or need to change information, please give the information to the Church office or an Elder.



Spring Split Plant Sale

We have a really exciting new fundraising idea for the Back-to-School Fair, a garden split sale! It's a unique idea that should bring in lots of funds, as plants are free to us, and can sell for \$3-5 each pending on size. So far, we know that we will have hostas, black eyed susans, bleeding hearts, lilies, ground cover, and irises.

Here's how you can help:

Save your plastic planters that your fall mums come in. We are going to need a lot of them.

Do you know a landscaper, or are you willing to make some calls to get the potting soil we will need donated?

As you are preparing your gardens for fall, take note of any plants you may be able to donate to the sale. Let Tenille know what types and quantities you think you might have, so she can work on getting the proper number of plastic planters and potting soil.

If splitting your plants is difficult for you, we'll work to get some of our youth to come out and help in the spring.

The Story Update



It's not too late to join! Discussion has been great! We understand that few, in any, will be able to attend every single session. Come when you can, and read the chapters in between. If you don't already have one of our nifty bookmarks which let you know which chapter we are studying when, pick one up when next you are in church, or we can mail you one. You can even have an extra one if yours is misplaced! Join us in celebration of God's Word!

Nottinghampc.org

Sharing the table with our friends!



Fish Fry and Chicken Dinner at Allen A.M.E. Church
 8th & Market Streets, Oxford, PA 19363
Saturday, October 6, 2018
 12 noon – 4:00 pm
 All For Only - \$10.00
 For more information call 610-470-7412

Annual Turkey Dinner "Buffet Style or Take Out"
 Sponsored by Shiloh Presbyterian Church
Saturday October 6, 2018
 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
 Held at Oxford Presbyterian Church
 Ticket Information: Adults: \$15.00
 Seniors Over 65: \$12.00 Children 4-10: \$7.00
 Leave a message at Shiloh P. C. : 610-932-9256

Shiloh Presbyterian Church
 Pancake & Omelet Breakfast
October 13, 2018 – 8:30-10:30 A.M. at SPC Community Outreach Center, 42 South Fifth Street, Oxford, PA

The Women of Little Britain Presbyterian Church invite you to their fellowship meal.
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 6:30 pm.
 The evening program will be presented by Lisa Landis. She is a local radio host who will be speaking on having gratitude in the midst of trials. Please R.S.V.P. to Joyce Holloway at 548-3436 by Monday, October 8, 2018.

The Oxford Area Senior Center, 12 East Locust Street, will hold its fall **"Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner"** on **Thursday, October 18th**. The Spaghetti Dinner menu will consist of Spaghetti with meatballs, tossed salad with dressing, dinner roll and homemade dessert. Dinners can be picked up between 3pm and 6pm. All this for only \$7.00. Please call the Center at (610) 932-5244 to reserve your dinners.

Coming in November:
Congregational Meeting on November 11 - Elections
Decorating Dinner November 30